GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3434
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2000
SMUGGLING OF SANDALWOOD
AVSM, BRIG.(RETD.) KAMAKHYA PRASAD SINGH DEO;Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is increase in the incident of sandalwood smuggling from Koraput district of Orissa and Karimnagar district of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the number of cases come to the notice of the Government during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to stop the smuggling and to increase the cultivation of sandalwood in both the States?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R.BAALU)

(a) No such incidents have come to the notice of the Ministry.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The State Governments are protecting forests from illegal felling and smuggling oftimber through protective staff. Raising plantations of sandalwood on large scale has not proved better than natural regeneration. At present, augmentation of sandal areas by promoting natural regeneration, tending works including bush sowing and protection of selected areas are being undertaken by the State Governments.